



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

March 20, 2006

Dear ,

The Adult ESL Explicit Literacy Impact Study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, is a groundbreaking study designed to test the effect of a high quality, innovative curriculum on the English literacy and language development of low-literate adult ESL learners. The study is being conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Lewin Group, Berkeley Policy Associates (BPA), and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. Dr. Larry Condelli, the project director, contacted you about the study last spring.

These organizations are currently in the process of identifying 10 programs, nationwide, that are eligible to participate in this exciting opportunity during the fall term of 2007 and the winter term of 2008. In each program, approximately 3 teachers will receive free state-of-the-art training on the implementation of the curriculum, as well as ongoing support throughout the study. In addition, all training and curriculum materials will be provided at no cost to the program.

The explicit literacy curriculum is being developed by distinguished experts in ESL instruction and explicit literacy, including Dr. Heide Spruck-Wrigley who is leading the development. The resulting curriculum will reflect principles of adult learning and explicit literacy, and will be tailored to meet the needs of low-literacy ESL learners.

I have attached a one-page overview of the study, which will provide you with more details. After you have had a chance to review this information, my colleagues at AIR and Lewin Group would be interested in having a conversation with you or other appropriate staff to discuss programs in your state that may be eligible for the study during the 2007-2008 study period. This study will provide invaluable information to help states and local agencies improve adult ESL practice, and we hope that we can count on your support.

If you need further information, please contact the project director, Dr. Larry Condelli, at 202-403-5331 or by e-mail at [lcondelli@air.org](mailto:lcondelli@air.org). Thanks in advance for your continued cooperation with AIR staff.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Keenan, Director  
Division of Adult Education and Literacy